

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AID-20 IO-13 OMB-01 ABF-01

TRSE-00 SS-15 NSC-10 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 RSR-01 /134 W

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R 081119Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5709

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 14345

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR VS

SUBJECT: ICCS FINANCING: NY TIMES ARTICLE

REF: A. SAIGON 14070

B. STATE 149608

C. STATE 153087

D. WARSAW 3777

1. TIMES' ARTICLE OF JULY 30 (REF B, C, D) CASTS ADDITIONAL SALT INTO WOUNDS CAUSED BY PARTING SHOTS OF DEPARTING CANDEL, SINCE ARTICLE SEEMS TO OTHER ICCS DELS SO HEAVILY BIASED AND BASED EXCLUSIVELY ON CANDEL VIEWS. POLDEL REP CHARGES THAT JOURNALIST MADE NO EFFORT CHECK HIS ARTICLE WITH ICCS SECRETARIAT STAFF OR WITH POLDEL ITSELF.

2. ONE BASIC DIFFICULTY ARTICLE POSES IS CONFUSION BETWEEN DEBTS AND BUDGET FORECAST. POLDEL REP DENIED ICCS IN DEBT 10 MILLION DOLLARS AND DEFENDED \$30,000 FIGURE FOR RENT OF AMB'S VILLA.FIGURE IS BASED, HE SAID, ON FIGURES PROVIDED BY LIAISON OFFICER IN FONOFF SERVICE BUREAU, WHO SAID VILLA RENT
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WOULD BE INCREASED CONSIDERABLY FROM CURRENT \$10.00 PER MONTH.

HE EMPHASIZED POLDEL HAS NOT RECEIVED \$30,000 FOR VILLA RENT AND THIS IS EXCLUSIVELY BUDGET PROPOSAL TO COVER ANTICIPATED RENT INCREASE.

3. RENTAL FIGURE PERHAPS ALSO INCLUDES NEEDED REPAIRS. CANDEL FBO-TYPE VISITOR FROM OTTAWA ESTIMATED IT WOULD REQUIRE OVER \$100,000 TO BRING A SIMILAR VILLA UP TO LIVABLE CANADIAN STANDARDS AND \$30,000 TO MAKE IT HABITABLE IN SAIGON TERMS.

4. HUNGDEL REP DENIED CHARGE THAT HUNGDEL HAD OVERCHARGED ON REST AND RECREATION EXPENSES, USING MONEY TO PURCHASE PERSONNEL RADIOS AND TAPE RECORDERS. POLDEL REP CONCURRED, SUGGESTING INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS HUNGDEL MAY HAVE SAVED PER DIEM PAYMENTS AND BOUGHT SUCH ARTICLES PERSONALLY.

5. ICCS PERSONNEL CONSIDER ARTICLE INACCURATE IN OTHER RESPECTS: PRG CAME THROUGH WITH SECOND CONTRIBUTION, SECOND TRANCHE BEFORE END OF JULY, AND ICCS HAD HEARD DRV ALSO MAKING SECOND CONTRIBUTION.

6. HUNGDEL REP STRESSED BURDEN OF PER DIEM PAYMENTS AND SUGGESTED BUDAPEST MIGHT RAISE SOME OBJECTIONS IF ICCS FORCED TO ASK DELS REPEATEDLY TO PICK UP THESE COSTS. HE CONFIRMED THESE PAYMENTS ALREADY MADE BY HIS GOVERNMENT FOR JUNE AND JULY. POLDEL REP SAID THEY HAD ALREADY PICKED UP AUGUST AS WELL.

7. POLDEL REP PROUDLY ANNOUNCED ICCS HAS PAID ALL DIRECT HIRE SALARIES TO DATE, THUS NO POSSIBILITY ICCS WILL LOSE LOCAL STAFF EMPLOYEES. HOWEVER, HE CONFIRMED THAT CONTRACTORS, EXPECIALLY AIR AMERICA AND FEC CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR PROMPT PAYMENT AND REPLENISHMENT ENCUMBERED ACCOUNTS, THREATENING CURTAILMENT OF SERVICES.

8. IN GENERAL, ICCS SECRETARIAT CONSIDERS ITS HAIRLINE FINANCIAL POSITION TO BE RESPONSIBILITY OF FOUR PARTIES RATHER THAN A REFLECTION OF IRRESPONSIBILITY ON PART ICCS DELEGATIONS AND SECRETARIAT.

9. COMMENT. FROM COMMENTS ON ARTICLE, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT ICCS DELS, PARTICULARLY HUNGS AND POLES, ARE HOLDING BACK PUBLICLY IN COMMENTING ON CANDEL VIEWS. THEY ARE, HOWEVER, BUSY
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IN ACCUMULATING EVIDENCE OF CANDEL FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES AND QUOTE MISDOINGS UNQUOTE AND WE CAN EXPECT CERTAIN AMOUNT OF FIREWORKS WHEN CANDEL BILL PRESENTED FOR REIMBURSEMENT. THIS APPLIES PARTICULARLY TO CHARGES CANDEL INCURRED EXPENSES FOR PURCHASES FOR USE BY CANDEL (CAMERAS FOR EXAMPLE) WHICH WERE NOT AUTHORIZED BY ICCS AND WHICH CANDEL WILL NOW CLAIM FOR REIMBURSEMENT. CANDEL ALSO ACCUSED OF STRIPPING QUARTERS AND OFFICES OF TYPEWRITERS, STOVES, AND REFRIGERATORS SUPPLIED BY

ICCS.

10. PA&E REP CONFIRMED TO EMBOFFS AUG 6 THAT SOME EQUIPMENT
IN CANADIAN OFFICES AND QUARTERS APPEARS TO BE MISSING AND PA&E
PLANS COMPLETE INVENTORY.

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